

***"National Treasures made famous by the book Bridges of Madison County"***

Washington D.C. - Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA), Ranking Member of the House Administration Committee, announced today that the Smithsonian Institute will begin its national exhibition "Covered Bridges: Spanning the American Landscape," in the city of Folsom.

"It is an honor for me to have the city of Folsom chosen for the unveiling of this exhibition of American history. Covered bridges are part of the country's heritage and often overlooked. This exhibition will allow people all over the country to enjoy their artistic appeal and focus efforts on preserving the few that remain," Lungren said.

Covered bridges grew in popularity among the general public in the early 20th century and became attractive subjects for artists and advertisers. No single person did more for the covered bridge in recent times than author Robert James Waller, whose 1992 book "The Bridges of Madison County" stayed on the New York Times bestseller list for more than 150 weeks.

"Covered Bridges: Spanning the American Landscape" is being developed by the Historic American Engineering Record, a division of the National Park Service, and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES); it is funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration. **The exhibition will open at The Gallery at 48 Natoma in Folsom, California, on May 23, 2009 and continue on a multi city national tour thereafter.**

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Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Ranking Member on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security committee